Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 14421 080021Z ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /061 W -------006837 080023Z /64/43

O R 071746Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9794
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMCONSUL BELFAST
AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

UNCLAS LONDON 14421

CORRECTED COPY-TEXT (PARA 2. LINES ADDED)

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT PGOV UK

SUBJECT: GENERAL ELECTION OFF

- 1. FOLLOWING A CABINET DEBATE THIS MORNING, PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN APPEARED ON TELEVISION THIS EVENING AND ANNOUNCED HIS DECISION NOT TO CALL GENERAL ELECTIONS AT THIS TIME. CALLAGHAN SAID HE THOUGHT HIS PARTY AND POLICIES ENJOYED DEEP POPULAR SUPPORT AND THAT THE BRITISH PUBLIC DESERVED THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THEM THROUGH FOR ANOTHER YEAR. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, DESCRIBE THE POLITICAL ARRANGEMENT IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS BY WHICH HE EXPECTS TO SURVIVE THE COMING YEAR WITHOUT A FIRM MAJORITY.
- 2. CALLAGHAN'S DECISION WILL COME AS A SURPRISE TO THE PUBLIC AND MANY POLITICAL WRITERS WHO HAVE BEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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PREPARING FOR MONTHS FOR AN AUTUMN ELECTION. NEVERTHE-LESS, IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN CLEAR THAT CALLAGHAN WOULD PERSONALLY PREFER A SPRING ELECTION BASED ON THE NEW REGISTER WHICH FAVORS LABOUR AND THAT MANY OF HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES, ESPECIALLY MICHAEL FOOT, WERE OPPOSED TO ELECTIONS NOW. STREATOR UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: ELECTIONS, POPULAR SUPPORT, POLITICAL PARTIES

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Disposition Remarks:
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Subject: GENERAL ELECTION OFF

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, UK, (CALLAGHAN, JAMES)

To: STATE Type: TE

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Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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